



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Allegheny National Forest
Supervisor's Office

4 Farm Colony Drive
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-5150
FAX (814) 726-1465

File Code: 1950

Date: March 27, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Forest Service is initiating an environmental analysis for the proposed Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The purpose of this letter is to inform the public of the proposal. We are proposing to suppress infestations of the non-native insect, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), to limit hemlock mortality and promote survival of important hemlock areas across the ANF. Please see the attached proposal for more detail. This information is also posted on the ANF website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/allegheny/landmanagement/projects>

I am interested hearing any concerns, issues or suggestions you have regarding the project. Please review the proposal and respond with site-specific comments about the proposed activities along with supporting information and rationale you believe will help identify issues that need to be addressed. I will consider all of your comments and determine whether we need to refine the proposed action or develop alternative ways to accomplish our objectives. Comments related specifically to the proposed activities should be submitted in writing on or before April 30, 2015.

This comment period serves as both a scoping opportunity and as a designated period for public comment. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. If you would like to be eligible to object based on scoping comments, you must submit comments no later than April 30, 2015, and the comments submitted must meet the requirements identified in 36 C.F.R. Part 218. I welcome comments received after April 30, 2015, and they will be considered in the development of project alternatives, but they will be outside this designated comment timeframe. There will be an additional public comment period, in which you can establish eligibility to object, following analysis of the project alternatives in an environmental assessment.

Submit comments electronically to: comments-eastern-allegheny@fs.fed.us. E-mail attachments must be readable by plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), Word (.doc or .docx), or any other format supported by Microsoft Office applications. Please reference Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression in the subject line. If no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. Written comments can be sent to: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project, Allegheny National Forest, 4 Farm Colony Dr., Warren, PA 16365. Hand-delivered comments will be accepted within our normal business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Comments, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered a part of the public record and will be available for public review.

Questions regarding the proposed project can be directed to Andrea Hille at 814-728-6161 or ahille@fs.fed.us. I look forward to having you engaged in this process.

Sincerely,

Nadine A. Pallock
for
SHERRY A. TUNE
Forest Supervisor

